

6. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pad is impregnated with an antimicrobial agent.

7. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said surfaces includes a thin film coating disposed thereon.

8. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said thin film coating is perforated.

9. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pad comprises:

a planar shape having a thickness defining a peripheral surface connecting said first and second surfaces; and

a slit extending from said peripheral surface to about a center of said pad.

10. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said pad further comprises a notch leading from said peripheral surface into said slit.

11. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said planar shape comprises a disk.

12. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising a needle operatively disposed with said needle shield wherein said pad is retained to said needle safety device by a friction fit between said pad and said needle.

13. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said friction fit is provided between said slit and said needle.

14. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pad is permanently attached to said planar contact surface.

15. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pad further includes at least one through-hole.

16. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for attachment of said pad to a safety shield apparatus.

17. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said needle shield comprises a Huber safety needle shield.

18. (Currently Amended) A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion and a proximal portion;

an extensible needle shield having a distal end attached to a planar contact surface and a proximal end attached to said proximal portion of said needle, the shield including a needle bearing in the planar contact surface that slidably engages the needle; and

a pad adapted for spacing between said planar contact surface and a subject's skin;

said pad including

a first surface adapted for disposal against said planar contact surface;

a second surface adapted to for disposal against said subject's skin;

a planar shape having a thickness defining a peripheral surface connecting said first and second surfaces; and

a slit extending from said peripheral surface to about a center of said pad;

wherein said pad is retained to said safety shield apparatus by a friction fit between said pad and said needle.

19. (Original) The safety shield apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said pad further comprises:

a notch leading from said peripheral surface into said slit; and

at least one through hole providing fluid communication between said first and second surfaces.

20. (Currently Amended) A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion and a proximal portion;

an extensible needle shield having a distal end attached to a planar contact surface and a proximal end and attached to said proximal portion of said needle, the shield including a needle bearing in the planar contact surface that slidably engages the needle; and

a pad adapted for spacing between a planar contact surface of a safety needle device and a subject's skin,

wherein said pad comprises:

a first surface adapted for disposal against said planar contact surface;

a second surface adapted to for disposal against said subject's skin;

a planar shape having a thickness defining a peripheral surface connecting said first and second surfaces; and

wherein said pad is permanently attached to said needle safety device.

21. (New) A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the planar contact surface includes a gripping surface.